

a dry hill covered with low shrubs we found great plenty of *Krameria ixina*, and a species of *Clusia*, with large white flowers, and attaining the stature of a small tree.

The island is about three leagues in length and half as much across, and is said to contain upwards of 2000 inhabitants, who derive their principal subsistence from fishing, and though apparently very poor showed us much hospitality. Though there are both a lawyer and a priest among them they have no medical man; and as soon as it became known that I was such, I was consulted by great numbers. Two of my patients were in the last stage of consumption, but by far the greater proportion of cases were the results of intermittent fever, chiefly consisting of derangement in the digestive organs, especially the spleen and liver. As I would receive no fees, many were the presents which the grateful creatures made me, and I was loaded with fish, fowls, and fruit.

On my return to Pernambuco, I found that about fifty species of living plants, and upwards of 700 specimens had been the amount of my collections during the four days we had passed on the island of Itamanca.

G. GARDNER.

The collections of dried specimens have safely reached this country, and we cannot but congratulate this enterprising botanist on the success of his labours in the present instance (including a few from Rio, which were not considered worthy of being added to the sets for general distribution) amounting to upwards of 490 species, in very fine preservation, with the numbers and localities attached to them, and occasionally, when they could be determined, the names also. They prove in the different character of the species how very dissimilar is the vegetation of Pernambuco: very few *Orchideæ*, very few ferns, and comparatively few Monocotyledons; rich in *Compositæ*, *Melastomaceæ*, *Myrtaceæ*, *Leguminosæ*, &c. &c. Several of the rarities of this collection are already engraved for our forthcoming volume (the 3rd) of the '*Icones Plantarum*.'

We hope shortly to give an account of Mr. Gardner's excursion into the interior of the province of Pernambuco.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A Monograph on the Anatidæ or Duck Tribe. By T. C. EYTON, Esq.,
F.L.S., F.Z.S. 4to. London, 1838.

The various works which are constantly appearing on natural

history, and on ornithology in particular, show that the taste for this study is rapidly increasing in the country. Here we have a splendid 4to volume devoted to a single family of birds, and that one certainly not the most attractive in external appearance, though exceedingly interesting for the peculiarities of their anatomy. On this part of the subject the author has bestowed considerable attention, and indeed prides himself on having been the first who has "made use of anatomical characters for divisions."

The work is divided into two parts; the first consisting of the characters of the tribes and genera of the family. This part is illustrated in two series of plates representing the skeleton and trachea of a bird of each of the tribes; while each of the genera is accompanied with a wood-cut representing the bill and foot of the type species of the natural size.

The second part consists of a description of all the known species of the family, amounting to 125 in number, six of which are beautifully figured by Mr. Gould. Each of the species is accompanied by a specific character in Latin and English, and a short English description with a few select synonyma, and some short remarks on its habits and general geographic distribution. Indeed the author appears to have paid considerable attention to the latter part of the subject, and at the end of the work has given a table showing the position of each species, either as a permanent resident, occasional visitor, or migrant, in each of the five ranges into which Dr. Prichard divided the world.

The work, as far as we know, is quite unique of its kind in any language, and is well worthy of the taste and talent of the author: it is much to be hoped, when he finds how well he has succeeded with this intricate group, and that there are materials in this country such as he has here brought together to occupy his leisure, that he will take up some of the other families in succession. For however others may disagree with his views in some particulars, all must agree that the plan which the author has adopted is one that must greatly advance the study of ornithology, and the knowledge of the different species of birds. The only improvement that we would suggest is, that the author should pay more attention to the synonyma, especially to those of the original authors, from whence Latham, Gmelin, Vieillot and others have taken their descriptions, as Bonaparte has so well set the example in his revision of the 'Synonyma of the American Birds.' We are aware that the comparing of birds with the original descriptions of different authors is a wearisome process, and one which few but professional zoologists

will undertake ; but it is one highly advantageous to the progress of the sciences ; and to one who knew the species of ducks as well as the author, it would have been a work of comparative facility.

The Bee-Keeper's Manual. By Henry Taylor. pp. 78. Groombridge.

This little tract, though not of much pretension, and in a cheap form, appears to have the merit of being judiciously arranged and well adapted for practical purposes by one who had devoted his attention to the subject as a favourite pursuit. It was designed, the author informs us, as " a brief practical compendium of the management of Bees, and in particular on the humane or depriving system, *in collateral ventilating boxes*, as constructed by himself."

" On reviewing his experience as a bee-keeper," he adds, " the author was led to believe that the result of it, added to a concise view of such particulars as are usually spread over a large surface in works of this nature, and arranged according to the progressive order of the seasons, might be useful to others, seeking like himself occasional relaxation from weightier matters, in watching over and protecting these interesting and valuable insects. Step by step, this or that defect of construction in his hives had been remedied, and such conveniences added, as necessity or the spirit of improvement from time to time had suggested. These are briefly described in the following little work."

Mr Taylor concludes his Manual, in which he states that " he has confined himself entirely to matters of practice," with the following remark : " My attention has been chiefly directed to the mechanical part of bee-keeping. Beyond this I have no leisure or opportunity to go, although doubtless much remains to be done in the pursuit of scientific investigation. Those who wish to enter into the question of the internal economy and the general physiology of the honey-bee may consult a variety of works. The principal of these are quoted in Mr. Huish's and Dr. Bevan's elaborate publications, in which are detailed a number of valuable facts, together with the results of many experiments."

Of Dr. Bevan's copious and highly interesting work, " *The Honey Bee*," a new and improved edition has been just received, and will claim our early notice.

Monograph of the Genus Cœnothera.

We are happy to be able to state that a " *Monograph of the Genus Cœnothera*" is in preparation, with drawings from the pencil of